



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

ROYAL R. RIFE: Humanitarian – Betrayed and Persecuted by Gerald F. Foye

Rife Technology Plasma Publishing, USA, 2002 (revised 2nd printing)
ISBN 0-9659613-3-8 (157pp tpb)
Price: US\$16.50 inc. s&h in USA; outside USA, add US\$3.00 s&h; euro21,90
Availability: **USA**—Rife Technology Plasma Publishing, 9856 Old Ridge Road, Spring Valley, CA 91977-3462, email GFoye@aol.com, website <http://www.rtplasmapub.com>;
Europe—NEXUS Office

History will eventually judge Dr Royal Raymond Rife as one of the 20th century's great scientists, doctors, inventors, researchers and humanitarians—but not until orthodox science and medicine accepts his groundbreaking discoveries. In the late 1920s, Dr Rife developed the Universal Prismatic Microscope, which enabled him to study *live* micro-organisms, and a "radiant plasma resonant frequency emission device", which, using specific frequencies, could "devitalise" all sorts of disease agents, including the "cancer-causing organism".

Researcher Gerald Foye is one of many involved in rediscovering and preserving Rife's legacy (we've reviewed a few such books recently), and here he touches on not just Rife's life and work but the people he worked with, for good and ill, up until his death in 1971. Despite devoting his life to the service of humanity, Rife suffered persecution and vilification particularly at the hands of the AMA and its long-time journal editor, the notorious Morris Fishbein,

because his technology was just too successful. Many doctors who had used his "beam ray" device vouched for him, as did many of the patients he cured, but the cards were stacked against him even in the courts. John Crane, a later associate of Rife, also fell foul of the law, and there's speculation as to how true to Rife's original designs and frequencies Crane's devices were.

Foye's treatment is somewhat disjointed and by no means chronological, and in many instances the events being discussed are not date-specific, which is a little confusing; also, the overuse of the exclamation mark is quite irritating. But these points aside, this is a good introduction to the field.

THE GOLDEN RATIO: The Story of Phi, the Extraordinary Number of Nature, Art and Beauty by Mario Livio

Review/Headline, UK, 2002
ISBN 0-7472-4987-3 (294pp hc)
Price: A\$39.95; NZ\$54.99; £15.00; euro26,90; US\$24.95
Availability: **Australia**—Hodder Headline, tel (02) 8248 0800; **NZ**—Hodder Moa Beckett, tel (09) 478 1000; **UK**—Hodder Headline, www.hodderheadline.co.uk;
Europe—NEXUS, tel +31 (0)228 324076;
USA—Transworld Random House, tel (212) 572 2571

Call it the Golden Ratio, the Golden Mean, the Golden Section or *phi* (ϕ), the never-ending number 1.6180339887... has intrigued humanity since antiquity. This irrational number holds answers to the secrets of divine proportion, and thus is a key to the essence of creativity and understanding in art, architecture, design, biology, botany and other disciplines.

Professor Mario Livio (who is head of the

science division at the Hubble Space Telescope Science Institute and author of *The Accelerating Universe*) takes the reader to the heart of this number, tempting us to touch on the essence of beauty itself. But rather than giving us just a picture book of *phi*'s breathtaking expressions in nature (he does have some great graphics, it should be said), Livio takes us on an enticing journey into the history of numbers, mathematics and geometry and the people who were part of it. His perspectives on ancient Indian, Babylonian, Egyptian and Greek understanding of divine number are intriguing, as are his revelations about Kepler's synthesis of the Golden Ratio in a new cosmology.

Anyone who has ever marvelled at a logarithmic spiral will be enthralled by this considered examination that takes in the wonders of human consciousness and the possibility that God is indeed a mathematician. Whether you're into Plato, pyramids, platonic solids, Pythagoras, Ptolemy or prime numbers, there's plenty in Professor Livio's book to excite the brain and imagination.



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THE DEFINITIVE WEE BOOK ON DOWSING:

A Journey Beyond Our Five Senses by Hamish Miller

Penwith Press, UK, 2002
ISBN 0-9533316-1-X (58pp hc)
Price: A\$23.00 inc. p&h; NZ\$19.00;
£6.40; euro11.90

Availability: **Aust**—Pauline Roberts, tel 0407 011 733, email dowsing@divstrat.com.au; **NZ**—Stoneprint Press, tel (03) 318 7377; **UK**—Penwith Press, PO Box 11, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 6YF, email penwithpress@talk21.com; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 (0)228 324076

Anyone who's ever had anything to do with dowsing would be inspired by its practicality and magic. It's not just about finding underground water and minerals: it can be as useful for confirming whether food in the fridge has gone off, as it is for exploring metaphysical dimensions.

Long-time dowser Hamish Miller (author of *The Sun and the Serpent, It's Not Too Late* and *The Dance of the Dragon*; see 2/17, 6/01, 8/03) has put together a gorgeous little book that has appeal for beginners as well as lapsed and experienced dowsers alike. Each chapter takes up just two pages: on the left is the text, containing choice facts and insights; on the right is a beautifully drawn diagram or illustration by Jean Hands or one borrowed from historical sources.

Starting off with history, development and pioneers, Miller moves on to the various dowsing tools and how to make and use them. He provides simple exercises that help you tune your mind, concentrate on the target, and word your questions the right way. "The dowsing tool," he explains, "provides a physical response to receptors in your consciousness which are capable of

probing beyond normal sense horizons."

Dowsing has an astounding array of applications. Miller touches on locating underground streams, finding and dating buried pipes and ruins with directional dowsing, map dowsing for pinpointing objects and missing persons, diagnosing allergies, and identifying human auric, landscape and planetary energy fields and currents. Above all, he opens the door to a perceptual paradigm that is changing our world.

PERPETUAL WAR FOR PERPETUAL PEACE

by Gore Vidal

Clairview Books, UK, 2002 (first published in USA by Thunder's Mouth Press, 2002)
ISBN 1-902636-38-4 (160pp tpb, UK),
1-5602-5405-X (tpb, USA)

Price: A\$30.00; NZ\$36.95; £8.95 + £2 p&p; euro12.90; US\$10.00

Availability: **Aust**—Rudolf Steiner Book Centre, tel (02) 9264 5169; **NZ**—Ceres Books, tel (09) 574 0373; **UK**—BookSource, tel 0141 5581366; **Europe**—NEXUS Office; **USA**—Thunder's Mouth Press, tel (212) 614 7880

Veteran US best-selling author Gore Vidal, now living in self-imposed exile in Italy, rails against decades of United States government hypocrisy at home and abroad in *Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*. This is a compilation that starts off with his unpopular overview of the events of September 11, 2001—unpopular because attempting to explain *why* America "got to be so hated" is a guarantee *not* to get published in the US, even by so-called alternative media (as was the case with this particular essay), which is why we're more likely to see his commentary in the non-US media.

Vidal is one of the few "big name" writers

who has seriously questioned why the US military-industrial complex is stirring up a melting pot that is now bubbling over into a likely but unpopular war with Iraq. He's also one of the few to take on the broader ramifications of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing (McVeigh was not a lone bomber, he says) and the subsequent Clinton-led anti-terrorism legislation that set the stage for the Bush II response to the bin Laden terrorist threat. Vidal reminds us that the public mindset was already brainwashed by decades of "an unrelenting demonization of the Muslim world in the American media".

Included in Vidal's pastiche of "Causes of Conflict in the Last Empire" is a list of 200 US military incursions since 1945 (compiled by the Federation of American Scientists), his takes on McVeigh (published in *Vanity Fair* in 1998 and 2001), his 1997 *Nation* essay on the new theocrats and their true "morality", and his prophetic letter to the US President-Elect in December 2000.

Vidal's writings really make us wonder who the *real* evil-doers are.





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WILD THINGS THEY DON'T TELL US by Reg Presley

Metro Publishing Ltd, UK, 2002
ISBN 1-84358-043-8 (272pp hc)
Price: A\$39.95; NZ\$59.95; £16.99;
Euro30,90; US\$27.00

Availability: **Australia**—Bookwise, tel (08) 8268 8222; **NZ**—Forester Books, tel (09) 415 2080; **UK**—Metro Publishing, tel 020 7381 0666; **Europe**—NEXUS Office;
USA—Trafalgar Square, tel (802) 457 1911

Life would never be the same again for Reg Presley after he entered his first crop circle formation at Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, in 1990. Not that it hadn't been strange days before then, if his history as founder of the world-famous band The Trogs in 1964 is anything to go by.

"Wild things" aplenty have caught Reg Presley's attention in the meantime. Some readers may recall his name in connection with UK UFO researcher Ray Santilli's release of the infamous "alien autopsy" film footage in 1995 (Reg has his own TV production company, and Ray was once involved in producing The Trogs).

In his aptly titled book, *Wild Things They Don't Tell Us*, Reg Presley covers some of the territory of latter-day alternative thinking and speculation. Crop circles, UFOs (including his own sightings and those of friends and fellow musicians), the Face on Mars, Dave Hudson's white powder gold and the sacred Ark of the Covenant, Royal Rife's cancer cures and a secret US/UK intelligence cabal are all part of Reg's orb in his passionate, absorbing, personal perspective. You'd swear he's been reading *NEXUS* for years; in fact, we're one of the few sources listed—along with the books of Laurence Gardner, whose work on the origin of Christianity has had an enormous impact on Presley. (Oh, but if only more care had

been taken with proper-name spellings!)

There are accounts in *Wild Things...* that are unique to this book, and which will introduce many people to undercurrents and new paradigms that they won't have encountered before. For this, Presley is to be congratulated. His high profile will ensure that a wider audience is exposed to all these "wild things they don't tell us".

THE GODS WERE ASTRONAUTS: Evidence of the True Identities of the Old 'Gods'

by Erich von Däniken

Vega/Chrysalis Books, UK, 2002
ISBN 1-84333-625-1 (208pp tpb)
Price: A\$29.95; £12.99; euro22,90;
US\$14.95; C\$22.95

Availability: **Australia**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—Chrysalis Books, tel 020 7697 3000, website <http://www.chrysalisbooks.co.uk/books/publisher/vega>; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 (0)228 324076; **USA/Canada**—Sterling Publishing, tel (212) 532 7160

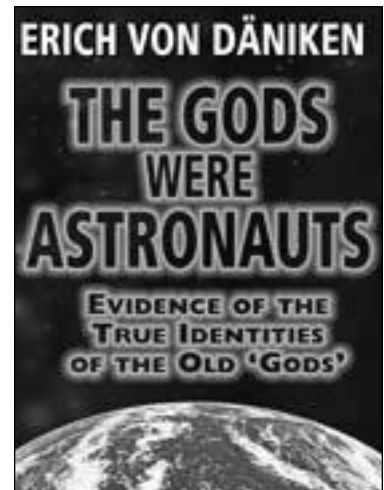
Many researchers owe much credit to Erich von Däniken for his popularisation of the idea that humanity has been visited, let alone seeded, by "the gods" or extraterrestrial beings. And the more we've found out since the 1968 release of his *Chariots of the Gods?*, the more his thesis can be judged as having a ring of truth—of course, to the disdain of his detractors.

Von Däniken's latest book, *The Gods Were Astronauts*, is not a huge advance on his previous works; it restates the same thing he's been saying all along, but with different examples. For instance, the Mary apparitions, most notably the Fátima appearances and the miracle of the "dancing Sun", witnessed by many thousands, von Däniken

attributes to an extraterrestrial source. Who knows, he may have a point here, and the power of that idea is charged by the Vatican's cover-up on arguably the *real* secret of Fátima, considering the reactions of a number of Popes over the decades.

Other evidence that von Däniken quotes refers to anthropology, exemplified in the Colombian Kogi town of Burritaca and the Sulawesi Toraja culture that reflect their tribes' cosmological world in the design, orientation and construction of their houses and stupas (there are some beautiful colour photos to illustrate what he means). And then, of course, there are the records from ancient Indian texts referring to flying machines, aerial battles and something akin to a latter-day nuclear missile defence system.

What von Däniken says is at odds with conventional religious and scientific thought, yet he rallies for the two to coexist respectfully and chase away the shadows of fundamentalism that might hinder the freedom of the human spirit.



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HARNESSING THE WHEELWORK OF NATURE: Tesla's Science of Energy

edited by Thomas Valone, PhD, PE
Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2002
ISBN 1-931882-04-5 (274pp tpb)
Price: A\$39.00; NZ\$43.00 + p&p; £15.50
inc. p&p; euro21.90; US\$16.95 + s&h
Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK/Europe**—
NEXUS offices; **USA**—Adventures
Unlimited, tel (815) 253 6390, website
<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>

Dr Nikola Tesla's dream of the worldwide wireless transmission of power was never realised, but the centenary of the construction of his Wardenclyffe Tower in New York is an anniversary to be remembered.

This is one motive behind this collection of papers dedicated to Tesla's work and memory, edited Tom Valone, an engineer, physicist, author, long-time Teslaphile and president of Integrity Research Institute. Tesla himself knew he was way ahead of his time, and perhaps his eccentric personality was as much a hindrance as a help, as borne out in his relationships with rich benefactors like Westinghouse and Morgan. But these essays, papers, technical briefings and press clippings remind us that we still have so much to learn from Tesla and his work.

This compilation is divided into three parts. The first section explores the early years of Tesla's genius with electricity, and has contributions from William Terbo (a descendant of Tesla), UK author Keith Tutt, as well as Tom Valone, who looks at the history of the Niagara Falls hydroelectric projects of the 1890s. The second section focuses on the principles of wireless power transmission. It includes Tesla's landmark paper plus specialist commentaries from the early 1980s onwards by physicists and engineers such as Dr Andrija Puharich, Toby Grotz, brothers James and Ken Corum, Dr

Elizabeth Rauscher and more. There's coverage of self-sustained longitudinal waves, Tesla's magnifying transmitter and ELF oscillator, and how to harness the Earth-ionosphere resonant cavity. The third section features miscellaneous articles on the homopolar generator, Tesla's ioniser and ozonator, FBI documents on Tesla, plus a selection of Tesla's patents. A welcome addition to the Tesla bookshelf.

THE LOST TESTAMENT: From Eden to Exile – The Five-Thousand-Year History of the People of the Bible

by David Rohl

Century, UK, 2002
ISBN 0-7126-6993-0 (513pp hc)
Price: A\$54.95; NZ\$65.00; £18.99;
Euro33,90

Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK**— Random House; **Europe**—NEXUS Office

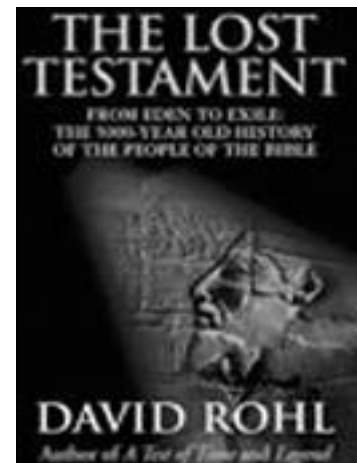
Far from being a work of fiction, the Old Testament is based on actual events and people, says historian and Egyptologist David Rohl (author of *A Test of Time* and *Legend: The Genesis of Civilisations*). This latest book, *The Lost Testament*, is the culmination of Rohl's 25-plus years of cross-disciplinary research into the epic story of the Children of Yahweh, the Israelites.

Rohl includes new findings from archaeology and astronomy as well as geological and climate sciences, and draws on texts from Mesopotamian, Egyptian and other contemporaneous ancient sources. His hands-on approach has taken him to all the out-of-the-way places he visits in this book. And yet, while he has all the academic credentials, he has maverick status amongst the orthodoxy.

The Genesis story begins far away in the Garden of Eden, at the end of the Neolithic Age (c. 5375 BC), with the "first" man and woman—the chieftain Adam and priestess

Eve—forming a tribal union that began the Adamite line and coincided with the flowering of agriculture and the domestication of animals in the Middle East. The location of Eden, he says, was a lush valley to the east of Lake Urimiya in what is now western Iran/Kurdistan. Rohl escorts us through the waves of patriarch-led tribal migrations south across the Zagros Mountains and into Mesopotamia, the creation of settlements and finally city-states, and the travels to Egypt before the eventual return to "the Promised Land". He catalogues the catastrophes and conflicts that punctuate these several thousand years of history in terms of a New Chronology. He closes with the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Israelites to Babylon in 587 BC.

This is a solid historical perspective that rewrites many of the wrongs of entrenched biblical archaeological misinterpretation. It has no hint of ET intervention—Rohl taking the view that the ancient Mesopotamian gods were based on real men and women who were heroes in their time.





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SECRETS OF THE EXODUS

by Messod and Roger Sabbah

Thorsons, UK, 2002

ISBN 0-00-713315-4 (290pp hc)

Price: A\$55.00; NZ\$69.95; £18.99; euro33,90

Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK—**

HarperCollins, <http://www.thorsons.com>;

Europe—NEXUS Office

Having just reviewed David Rohl's book, *The Lost Testament*, I'm now faced with contradictions in *Secrets of the Exodus* by French researchers Messod Sabbah and Roger Sabbah (a rabbi with a passion for Egyptology), who have both studied the Talmud and Torah extensively. Their book was first published in French in 2000, but I wonder whether today they would reconsider their thesis in light of the so-called New Chronology, which recalibrates the dating system for the Middle Eastern and Egyptian worlds of antiquity.

The authors contend that a Hebrew Exodus from Egypt did not happen according to the Bible story, but coincided with the expulsion of the monotheists who lived in Akhet-Aten, the glorious city established by the Pharaoh Akhenaten. They maintain there is no evidence to support any Hebrew slave community at the time of Akhenaten. But what if the dating system they use is out by several hundred years? What if a different Pharaoh altogether presided over the Exodus? Any evidence uncovered that might support the Hebrew slave thesis could be ignored if it didn't fit the established timeline.

The Sabbahs find close parallels between Abraham and Akhenaten—going so far as to suggest they were the same person (so much for Ur)—as well as between Moses and Ramesses I. They also maintain the Hebrew script is based on Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Apart from suggesting that all the Hebrew

patriarchs were Egyptian, they propose that the early Old Testament books were deliberately written with most Egyptian linkages omitted and with an emphasis on a much earlier Mesopotamian origin for monotheism, so that the Israelites would gain favour with their masters during their Exile in Babylon. The authors' research into Hebrew/Egyptian links is impressive, but I have reservations about their conclusions based on the chronologies they use.

UNIVERSAL WATER:

The Ancient Wisdom and Scientific Theory of Water

by West Marrin, PhD

Inner Ocean Publishing, USA, 2002

ISBN 1-930722-15-X (341pp tpb)

Price: US\$17.95 + s&h; euro22,90

Availability: **USA—**Inner Ocean

Publishing, tel (808) 573 8000, website

<http://www.innerocean.com>; Bookpeople,

tel 1-866 731 2216; **Europe—**Contact

NEXUS Office, tel +31 (0)228 324076

The world is in a crisis situation over supply and quality of fresh water. And with the growing trend towards privatisation of water infrastructure and the supply itself, many poor communities cannot afford to buy water. So how can we turn this around?

West Marrin, who has a PhD in water resources from the University of Arizona and now lives surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on Kaua'i in the Hawaiian Islands, argues in *Universal Water* for a perceptual shift in our attitude to water. He sets our sights on a synthesis between the ancient and modern viewpoints, taking us beyond regarding water as just a commodity or something pleasing to behold.

Ancient peoples revered water as a sacred, conscious, living entity, and today there's a

growing trend towards rediscovering its role in the natural rhythms of life—a type of "modern naturalism", as he describes it. But this trend is now also being informed by a new science which is exploring the molecular and geometric structure as well as energetic frequency signatures of all sorts of water—from the sea, glaciers, rivers, running streams and springs.

The pioneering work of early 20th-century figures like Viktor Schauberger and Albert Szent-Györgyi is being expanded by scientists such as Rupert Sheldrake (morphic resonance), Patrick Flanagan (microclusters) and Masaru Emoto (water crystal photography), who, in effect, are raising science from the mundane to the esoteric level.

By focusing on these and other breakthroughs, Dr Marrin gives a broader context within which to respond to the water crisis. It's imperative for our future that his message gets through to representatives of water and financing authorities, corporations, NGOs and all tiers of government.



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MOSES AND AKHENATEN: The Secret History of Egypt at the Time of the Exodus

by Ahmed Osman

Bear & Co./Inner Traditions, USA, 2002

ISBN 1-59143-004-6 (262pp tpb)

Price: A\$42.00; NZ\$54.95 + p&p;

£15.99; euro22,90; US\$18.00

Availability: **Australia**—Brumby Books, tel

(03) 9761 5535; **NZ**—Southern Publishers

Group, tel (09) 309 6930; **UK**—Deep

Books, tel 020 8693 0234; **Europe**—

NEXUS Office; **USA**—Inner Traditions, tel

(802) 767 3174, website

<http://www.InnerTraditions.com>



This thesis throws one more spanner in the works, as Cairo-born, UK-based author Ahmed Osman puts a different spin on biblical and Egyptian history, arguing that Moses was not only Egyptian but was one and the same person as the "heretic" Pharaoh Akhenaten who introduced a monotheistic Sun god religion into Egypt.

Here we have another reworking of events surrounding the life of Moses, where Moses had Egyptian parents and was brought up by Israelite relatives—as opposed to being of Hebrew birth and adopted by the wife of the Egyptian Pharaoh of the time. The veracity of these claims depends in part on which chronology you use, and Osman's dates are at odds with the so-called New Chronology and new archaeological findings.

Osman is convinced that Akhenaten—Moses—did not die when claimed, but took refuge for 25 years at the Mount Sarabit (Serâbît/Mount Horeb) temple and mining outpost in the Sinai Peninsula—the same temple that explorer Petrie discovered in 1904 and which is linked to ancient white powder gold alchemy. However, Osman doesn't enlarge on this strange substance or the alchemical rites associated with it (see Laurence Gardner's article this issue).

At Sarabit, the Pharaoh-in-exile continued to develop his monotheistic religious ideas, no doubt adopting some of the local Semitic

rituals before returning to Egypt to try to regain his throne, says Osman, but finally dying at the hands of Seti I before he could set foot in the Promised Land. Osman also points out that the Ten Commandments have commonalities with the Egyptian *Book of the Dead*. His study makes for an interesting alternative perspective—but in my mind, the chronology is still open to question.

IN QUEST OF LOST WORLDS: Journey to Algeria, Ethiopia, Yucatan and Beyond

by Count Byron de Prorok

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2002

(first published 1937)

ISBN 1-932813-56-9 (309pp tpb)

Price: A\$39.00; NZ\$43.00 + p&p; £15.50

inc. p&p; euro21,90 ; US\$16.95 + s&h

Availability: **Australia/NZ/UK/Europe**—

NEXUS offices; **USA**—Adventures

Unlimited, tel (815) 253 6390, website

<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>

Between 1925 and 1934, the Anglo-Hungarian archaeologist/explorer Count Byron Khun de Prorok led a number of off-the-beaten-track expeditions to northern Africa as well as Central America. His account, *The Quest of Lost Worlds*, was published in 1936, and this is a reprint of the original that includes the quaintly hand-drawn maps and photographs.

Apparently the Count was a populariser of archaeology yet had a fascination for occult subjects—a combination that stood him in good stead in his travels. These five expeditions start with Algeria in 1925–26, with the discovery of the tomb of the legendary Queen of the Tuaregs in the A'Hagggar mountain range in the Sahara, and move on to Libya with the excavation of the megalithic Jupiter–Ammon temple in 1926–28. Next, there's a short trip to Tripolitania in 1931 to visit strange dunes and tunnels. The Count's narrative reads like a true explorer's travelogue, full of insights about the people he encounters, their cultural and religious traditions, their architecture and the landscapes in which they live.

In 1932–33, the Count turned his attentions to Mexico, to search for Atlantis at Chichén Itzá in the Yucatán, and to Guatemala, to uncover Mayan pyramids. But he was back in Africa in 1933–34, on the quest for King Solomon's fabled mines. Adventures like these are hard to come by these days!

As a finale to this edition, modern-day explorer/publisher David Childress reprints the compelling A'Hagggar wall paintings from a rare 1959 book, *The Search for the Tassili Frescoes*, by Henri Lhote. These paintings, like many of the Count's travels, hint at a civilisation that once flourished in what is now the Sahara Desert.

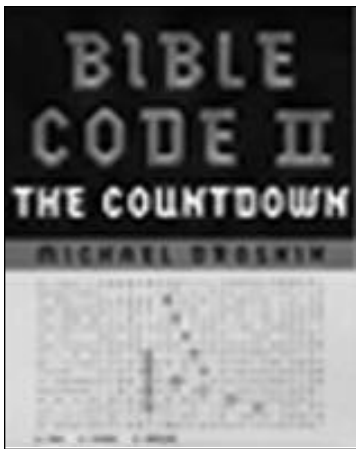
An inspiring detour into times past.



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THE BIBLE CODE 2: The Countdown by Michael Drosnin

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, UK, 2002 (by arrangement Viking-Penguin, USA, 2002)
ISBN 0-297-82957-2 (292pp tpb);
0-670-03210-7 (304pp hc in USA)
Price: A\$24.95; NZ\$29.99; £9.99;
euro34,90; US\$26.95
Availability: **Aust**—Allen & Unwin, tel (02) 8248 0800; **NZ**—Archetype, tel (09) 377 3800; **UK**—Orion, tel 01903 721596;
Europe—NEXUS Office; **USA**—Penguin Putnam, <http://www.penguinputnam.com>



We are amidst the End of Days, according to the Bible code—and if peace is not the choice of some key leaders, we face nuclear annihilation by 2006. How it will be played out depends on a solution being found to the Israeli–Palestinian crisis. This is the key message that journalist Michael Drosnin has gleaned in his research since his first *Bible Code* book was published in 1997 (see review, 4/05). He's continued his association with Russian-born Israeli mathematician Eliyahu Rips—and was amazed to find Rips himself immortalised in the code as its discoverer via a computer program.

The impetus for this follow-up book was the attack on the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001. Not only did the destruction happen before Drosnin's eyes, a few blocks away from his home, but the whole scenario was already there in the Bible code. Readers of the first book will recall that Drosnin, using Rips's computer program, saw the assassination of Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin in the code and sent a warning a year before the deed was done.

It helps to know the Hebrew alphabet to appreciate the revelations of the code, otherwise we have to take Drosnin's word for it. Be that as it may, we're in for many surprises, political and even off-world. While on the one hand Drosnin has done his utmost to get the message through to key leaders—Arafat, Sharon, Peres, Barak, Clinton, Bush—to prevent a doomsday scario, he's

also come across intriguing clues about the code itself. For example, it might be revealed in a key artefact—an inscribed obelisk, a metallic ark-like receptacle, or even a UFO relic—to be found in the salt-encrusted Lisan Peninsula in the Dead Sea.

Further, the Bible code and DNA code may be linked—indeed, may have the same off-planet origin. Francis Crick—the co-discoverer of DNA—is even quoted as saying that DNA has an alien source, and that we're the product of Directed Panspermia! This book may make or break us. The next instalment can't come soon enough...

THE SHINING ONES

by Christian and Barbara Joy O'Brien

Dianthus Publishing Ltd, UK, 2002
ISBN 0-946604-20-7 (752pp hc)

Price: £49.50; US\$75.00

Availability: **UK**—The Patrick Foundation/ Golden Age Project, POB 72, Cirencester GL7 6YG, tel 01285 641924, website <http://www.goldenageproject.org.uk>

This vast work is the sum of a lifetime's work for authors Christian and Barbara Joy O'Brien (in fact, Christian, a geologist, died in 2001). It enlarges on two earlier books, *The Megalithic Odyssey* (1983) and *The Genius of the Few* (1985).

The story traces the influence of the so-called "Shining Ones", who allegedly oversaw the progress of humanity for several thousand years. They helped establish agriculture in the Near East around 8500 BC, the authors contend, and c.8000 BC founded a settlement—the Garden in Eden—at Kharsag in ancient Lebanon. They had a hand in establishing sophisticated structures and city-states, the arts and sciences, laws and customs, as well as philosophies for creating a better world. Indeed, the authors maintain we can learn much from their legacy at a time when our world is so poised between the forces of light and darkness.

But who were they, and from where did they come? This is where exoteric history, supported by archaeological and textual evidence, meets esoteric realms, for the authors conclude that these Shining Ones, the Anannage (as they call them), were a group of archangels and angels from high astral, even causal, dimensions (though some were Watcher-Angels of the negative path). Yet their patronage was not limited to the Near East and North Africa, for evidence of it can be found in the Tuatha de Danann myths of ancient Ireland, in Cornwall, Brittany, Norway, India, China, Japan, Australasia and Oceania—all around the globe.

The authors have drawn on the Sumerian Kharsag Epics, the Chronicles of Enoch and an alternative translation of the book of Genesis for this far-reaching, esoteric sourcebook that cannot possibly be summed up in as short a review as this.

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VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

OUT OF THE BLUE

Produced by FCZ Media, USA, 2002
(95mins, PAL VHS, NTSC VHS & DVD)
Price: US\$19.95 (DVD US\$24.95)

Availability: Order via the Internet website <http://www.outoftheblue.tv>

This is definitely one of the best UFO documentaries I've ever seen. Five years in the making (a former UFO sceptic being on the team), the result is a well-presented video that has won awards. It includes testimony from astronauts Gordon Cooper and Edgar Mitchell; from Royal Navy Admiral Lord Hill-Norton and MoD staffer Nick Pope; from Russian cosmonaut Pavel Popovich and even former President Jimmy Carter gets a clip. There is also acknowledgement of the French COMETA Report's significance, and good coverage of the famous Phoenix, Arizona, sightings of 1997. Even Michael Shermer, publisher of *Skeptic* magazine endorses this film.



CREATING PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES: Small-Scale Cooperative Enterprise in Maleny

Produced by Alister Multimedia for the Prout Community Settlement Cooperative, Maleny, Australia, 2002 (25mins)
Price: A\$35.00; US\$25.00 (inc. p&h)
Availability: Australia—Alister Multimedia, PO Box 177, Maleny, Qld 4552, tel +61 (0)7 5494 2887, website <http://www.alistermultimedia.net>

This is an inspiring 25-minute documentary, touching on the history, challenges and triumphs of the cooperatives in the remarkable Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Maleny and environs. The film includes cooperative enterprises covering barter (the LETS system), healthy foods and products, finance and credit, landcare and environment, education and more. If you are interested in cooperatives, this is a must-see.

PLANET X

Produced by Robert Sepehr, USA, 2002
(70 mins, PAL VHS & NTSC VHS)

Price: US\$20.00 + s&h

Availability: Order via the website <http://www.planetxvideo.com>

The subject of Planet X is in the minds of many NEXUS readers at present, and this video certainly goes a long way to putting clarity into who is saying what on this subject. Researchers interviewed include Mark Hazlewood, Nancy Lieder, Lloyd Pye, Jason Martell and James McCanney. There is very good background material on all aspects of Planet X in relation to Zecharia Sitchin's research. Robert has done well to bring together a compilation of differing, and sometimes contradictory, opinions. The quality of both the information, and the production is excellent.

MAGICAL EGYPT: A SYMBOLIST TOUR – Episode 1: The Invisible Science with John Anthony West

Magical Egypt, USA, 2002 (58mins, PAL & NTSC)

Price: US\$19.95 + s&h

Availability: Order via the website <http://www.magicalegypt.com>

Did ancient Egypt inherit its mysterious buildings and abilities from an even older civilisation? In this video, John Anthony West passes on his extensive knowledge of and insights into symbolist Egypt, during a visually rich journey set against temples, hieroglyphs and pyramids. Topics covered include Schwaller de Lubicz's research, organic geometry (e.g., Fibonacci series, harmonics) and sacred science. A film for both sides of your brain!

CD-ROM

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

VIRTUAL EGYPT: A 360° Cyber tour of the Sacred Sites of Ancient Egypt with John Anthony West

Magical Egypt, USA, 2002 (CD-ROM, 2-CD set)

Price: US\$24.95 + s&h

Availability: Order via the website <http://www.magicalegypt.com>

A must-have for all Egyptophiles, but only if you have a PC (sorry, Mac users). This is truly a visual feast of movies and photos of the major ancient Egyptian sites, including the Sphinx and Great Pyramid, Abu Simbel, Dendera, the Oserion (my favourite), Luxor, Abydos and Karnak, as well as the Cairo Museum. I particularly liked being able to zoom in on the photos.



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

ZEN CONNECTION

by various artists

One World Music, Australia, 2002
(2CDs, 148mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522, website <http://www.oneworldmusic.com.au>;

UK—New World Music, tel 01986 781682; **USA**—New World Music, tel (303) 415 1040

With the many double-set CD collections released today, this offering from One World rates as one of the better I've heard. It comes in a beautiful "clamshell" box presentation. There are melodies and beats from around the planet, from Western chillout grooves to Eastern fusion, across to the sounds of ambient techno New Age relaxation. Compiler Leigh Wood has picked a strong and varied bunch of fresh musical sounds to engage the listener.

ASIAN GROOVE

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2002 (47mins)

Distributors: **USA**—Putumayo World Music, tel 1888 7888 8629, website <http://www.putumayo.com>;

Australia—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622

Putumayo's *Asian Groove* features many of the new composers in the invigorated Asian music scene. I have reviewed several Indian and Asian compilations in the last two years and find this one to be exciting and adventurous without being repetitive. Much of what's here is from Indian and Pakistani traditions, with cutting-edge styles put together from new-blood Asian musicians—among them, Nitin Sawhney, Bally Sagoo, Deepak Ram, Mo' Horizons and Badar Ali Khan. Excellent, funky album.

BHAGAVAN DAS NOW

by Bhagavan Das

Karuna Records, USA, 2002 (64mins)

Distributors: **USA**—Karuna Music, tel (310) 456 9063, <http://www.triloka.com>;

Aust—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Proper Music, tel 08704 440799

Bhagavan Das is taking the US musical world by storm with his reworking of traditional Indian sacred songs, converting them to a newer format. Even names like Madonna are using his sounds in their music. In the age of gripping materialism, Bhagavan Das's sacred sound is making headway against pop songs devoted to death, drugs or destruction. Das is backed by guitar, keyboards, bass and popular Indian instruments such as *tabla*, *dolak* and

sarangi. It's good to see this style making inroads into the world music scene. This album reasserts the sacred in music.

THE JOURNEY

by Jerry Brunskill

New World Music, USA, 2002 (52mins)

Distributors: **USA/Aust/NZ/UK**—

New World Music, website <http://www.newworldmusic.com>

The *Conversations with God* series has taken the book publishing world by surprise, reaching millions around the globe. If you haven't read the books, you probably have a best friend who has. Neale Donald Walsch, the author, discovered the God in everything around us. This CD translates those words of *Conversations...* into a musical format, touching us to the core as the books have done. "Does Your Heart Ache to Tell the Truth About Me?", the first track, sums up the sentiment of the recording. It's movingly done, with some simple truths about mankind and the relationship with the Divine. An impressive musical narration.

UNFOLDING

by Axiom of Choice

Narada World, USA, 2002 (51mins)

Distributors: **USA**—Narada, tel (414) 961 8350, <http://www.narada.com>;

Australia—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020;

UK—Mac Two, tel 020 7377 5841

Axiom of Choice—led by Persian émigrés to the USA, Loga Ramin Torkian, Mammad Mohsenzadeh and vocalist Mamak Khadem—has released a second gorgeous album, a follow up to *Niya Yesh* (see review, 7/06). The group incorporates instruments outside the Persian classical tradition—even subtle electronica. Inspiration for their lyrics is the illuminating poetry of Omar Khayyám. Their instruments include the quarter-tone guitar, *saz* and *diwan* (Middle Eastern lutes), the Armenian *duduk*, clarinet, electric cello and various global percussion devices. This is rich, exotic Persian music with amazing, haunting melodies.

